

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously presented)      An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:6.

Claim 27 (Original)    A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 26 wherein the proteinaceous molecule exhibits at least one of the following properties:

- (i)      an ability to induce vascular endothelial cells;
- (ii)     an ability to interact with *flt-1/flk-1* family of receptors; and/or
- (iii)    an ability to induce cell migration, cell survival and/or an increase in intracellular levels of alkaline phosphatase.

Claim 28 (Original)    A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27 wherein the proteinaceous molecule has the capacity to induce astroglial proliferation.

Claim 29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Previously presented)      A nucleic acid according to claim 26 wherein said nucleic acid is of human origin.

Claims 31-45 (Cancelled)

Claim 46 (Previously presented)      A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 3 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

Claim 47 (Previously presented)      A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 5 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

Claim 48 (Previously presented)      A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 7 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

Claim 49 (Previously presented)      A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 9 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

Claims 50-55 (Cancelled)

Claim 56 (Previously presented)      An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 57 (Previously presented)      An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

Claim 58 (Previously presented)      An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.